Appointment of foreign nationals in domestic airlines

734. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has framed any policy relating to appointment of foreign nationals by domestic airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the security clearance of foreign nationals is mandatory before they are appointed by domestic airlines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of foreign nationals appointed so far in different capacities in domestic airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) In accordance with Civil Aviation Requirements, security clearance of foreign crew and engineers is necessary before they can be allowed to operate/maintain Indian registered aircraft. Further, Directors and Chairman/CEO of the organization seeking NOC are also required to be security cleared.

(e) The details of foreign national employed by private scheduled airlines are as under:

Jet Airways (263 Pilots and 40 Others at CEO/Corporate Level), JetLite (13 Pilots), Air Deccan (148 Pilots, 69 Engineers and 01 Other at CEO/Corporate Level), Kingfisher Airlines (96 Pilots and 2 Engineers), Spicejet (45 Pilots and 02 Others at CEO/Corporate Level), Paramount Airways (20 Pilots, 10 Engineers and 01 Other at CEO/Corporate Level), Go Air (12 Pilots), IndiGo (74 Pilots and 06 Others at CEO/Corporate Level). In addition Jet Airways has 108 foreign cabin crew which are exclusively used for international operations.

Enhanced security measures at airports

735. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has announced that it would undertake a comprehensive review with the Ministry of Home Affairs to plug all possible loopholes in the security arrangements at airports;

(b) whether Airports Authority of India (AAI) has decided to install equipment at hypersensitive and sensitive airports across country and at least fifty hypersensitive and sensitive airports have been finally provided equipment they have been handicapped without for long; and

(c) if so, to what extent the security has now been fully revived?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Security arrangements at airports are reviewed regularly and remedial action taken. Such review is an ongoing process undertaken in consultation with various security agencies and Ministry of Home Affairs to ensure security *vis-a-vis* the assessment of threat.

The necessary equipments are provided at all airports including hyper sensitive and sentitive airports based on recommendations and Technical Specifications prescribed by Bureau of Civil Aviation Security.

Differential airport charges in the country

736. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's Airport charges are the second highest in Asia, after Hong Kong;